

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR EXPOSING LOCAL CLIPBOARD FUNCTIONALITY TOWARDS EXTERNAL APPLICATIONS

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates in general to data communication, and more particularly to a system and method for exposing local clipboard functionality towards external applications over a network.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Computing devices have traditionally provided a temporary memory area referred to as a "clipboard." Generally, a clipboard refers to a temporary area of memory that is used to transfer data between applications or documents. Nearly all personal
15 computing devices, including handheld and mobile devices, include such a facility. This facility typically allows information to be copied from one local application into another local application by the familiar "cut/copy" and "paste" commands. A "cut" or "copy" command places selected information from one application on the clipboard, where this information can then later be copied from the clipboard and "pasted" into the same or
20 different application. Generally only applications that execute locally on the device can add, copy or remove items to/from the clipboard.

In the modern networking era, devices can communicate over networks in a variety of ways, including voice connections; content browsing, messaging such as e-mail, Short Messaging Service (SMS), or Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS), and so forth.
25 However, such communications often require that a connection be established between the communicating devices, and often need to share identifiers for the users. It would be desirable to exchange information, such as clipboard information, without the need to establish such connections.

U.S. Patent No. 5,964,834 is directed to a system and method for sharing
30 clipboard information by transferring information from one clipboard to other clipboards. This, however, requires user to define which computers will be participating in the shared

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